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For Immediate Release:

One Book, One San Diego's Community Book Club Kicks Off
Program Highlights Local Authors and Books for All Ages

San Diego, California, January 25, 2012—San Diego's popular community reading program, *One Book, One San Diego*, is kicking off the year with *Sky of Red Poppies*, by local author Zohreh Ghahremani. Now in its sixth year, the program has been so well received that Mayor Jerry Sanders recently proclaimed January as "One Book, One San Diego Month."

Hundreds of copies are being circulated through the City of San Diego public libraries and readers can look forward to a series of related events throughout the city, including lectures, films, book discussions and author talks through March. Told from the eyes of a young girl growing up in 1960s Iran, *Sky of Red Poppies* explores a friendship that develops during a politically and socially tumultuous period of that country's history.

While *Sky of Red Poppies* will be read by thousands of San Diego teens and adults, the program has also selected a children's companion book so that all ages can participate. *The Secret Message* by another Southern California author, Mina Javaherbin, is based on an ancient Persian poem by Rumi and tells the story of a pet parrot who longs to be free. Copies of this book will be available for checkout in local libraries, and author talks are being planned at children's bookstores, schools, and libraries.

Under this year's theme, "Around the World with One Book," the program will feature two additional books: *Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert will be highlighted in April and May, and *Into the Beautiful North* by best-selling author Luis Alberto Urrea in June and July. Each book will have a children's selection to accompany it.

The 2012 One Book, One San Diego series will be launched at a community event featuring all three authors and KPBS Midday Edition host, Maureen Cavanaugh on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center. Details about this and other upcoming *One Book, One San Diego* events can be found on KPBS.org and the San Diego Public Library's website.

About *One Book, One San Diego*: The six-year-old program is a partnership between KPBS and the San Diego Public Library with a mission to bring San Diegans together through an enriching, locally-relevant literary experience. The program consists of a series of author events, film screenings and book discussions from January through July.

It is made possible by the following funders: Linden Root Dickinson Foundation, Lloyd Pest Control, the Samuel I. and John Henry Fox Foundation and Cubic Corporation.

About the San Diego Public Library: San Diego Public Library, which is the largest library system in the region, serves a population of more than 1.3 million people. Its mission is to respond to the information needs of San Diego's diverse communities; ensure equal access to local, national and global resources; anticipate and address the educational, cultural, business and recreational interests of the public; and develop and provide welcoming environments. Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's online catalog.

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